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THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A tube section for forming a pipeline or conduit or for coupling in a pipeline or conduit, including:
- 5 a tube wall defining a central passageway, the tube wall having an internal surface;
- a cutout, cut from the tube wall and leaving an opening through the tube wall, the cutout having a side edge and the opening having a mating side edge which are
- 10 formed when the cutout is cut from the tube wall, the cutout having an internal surface; and
- the side edges of the opening and cutout defining abutting ledges so the cutout can be inserted in the opening with at least a portion of the side edge being
- 15 supported against at least a portion of the side edge of the opening so the cutout forms a removable access cover with the internal surface of the cutout substantially flush with the internal surface of the tube wall when the cutout is installed in the opening.
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2. The tube section of claim 1 wherein the cutout is sealed in place on the opening by a sheet member having an adhesive applied to one surface so that the sheet member can be adhered adjacent to and over the side edges when the
- 25 cutout is in place in the oval opening.
3. The tube section of claim 2 wherein the sheet member comprises a rectangular piece of acrylic material having adhesive applied to one side
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4. The tube section of claim 2 wherein the sheet material is formed from acrylic material and is transparent.
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5. The tube section of claim 1 wherein the side edges have a predetermined constant angle with respect to a line tangential to the tube wall at each point along the

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side edges.

6. The tube section of claim 5 wherein, the predetermined angle is an angle of 90°.

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7. A method of forming an access cover in a tube section for forming a pipeline or conduit, or for coupling in a pipeline or conduit, said method including:

moving the tube section relative to a cutting tool so that the cutting tool and tube section are moved relative to one another to cut a cutout from the tube section to leave an opening in the tube section with the cutout having a side edge and the opening having a side edge which are formed when the cutout is cut from the tube wall; and

wherein the cutout forms the access cover which can be removed from and replaced in the opening with the side edge of the opening engaging the side edge of the cutout so that the access opening can be supported on the cutout without projecting into the central passageway so as to have an interior surface which is substantially flush with the interior surface of the tube wall.

8. The method of claim 7 including the step of sealing, the cutout in place on the opening by a sheet member having an adhesive applied to one surface so that the sheet member can be adhered adjacent to and over the side edges when the cutout is in place in the oval opening.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the sheet member comprises a rectangular piece of acrylic material having adhesive applied to one side.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the sheet material is formed from acrylic material and is transparent.

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11. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of moving the tube section relative to the cutting tool comprises the steps of moving the cutting tool relative to the tube in a plane and rotating the tube section about a longitudinal
5 access of the tube section relative to the cutting tool.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the movement in the plane and the rotation is controlled by a central
10 processor.

13. The method of claim 7 wherein the cutting tool is a laser cutting tool.

14. A method of gaining access to and resealing a
15 tube section for forming a pipeline or conduit or for coupling a pipeline or conduit wherein the tube section has a tube wall defining a central passageway and a cutout cut from the tube wall forming an opening through the tube wall, the cutout having a side edge and the opening having
20 a side edge which are engageable with one another to locate the cutout in the opening to cover the opening, the method including:

25 locating the cutout in the opening so that the side edge of the cutout engages the side edge of the opening;

30 locating a sealing sheet having adhesive on one side over the abutting side edges so that the adhesive adheres to the tube wall and cutout adjacent the abutting side edges and over the abutting side edges to seal the cutout in the opening; and

whereby access to the pipeline or conduit can be provided by peeling the sheet member from the tube wall and cutout and removing the cutout from the opening.

35 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the preferred embodiment of the invention, the tube section is circular in transverse cross-section.

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16. The method of claim 14 wherein the sheet member comprises a transparent acrylic sheet having adhesive on one side.

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17. The method of claim 16 wherein the acrylic sheet covers the entire cutout and adjacent portions of the tube wall when sealing the cutout in the opening.

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